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Newsletter

October 20, 1949

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School:

This is the first issue of a monthly newsletter replacing the more formal GS Newsletter previously issued on a now-and-then basis. Its objectives are quite modest, considering the purpose it could fill in an organization as uniquely sprawled as ours. Briefly, from the vantage point of my office, I shall try to pull together information on developments and activities of interest to us all. In doing this I hope I will create some of the "belongingness" deemed so important by the committee which fathered this letter.

Last summer, Clara Ackerman of Extension, Wayne Dexter of BAE and Elwood McIntyre of Press Service, all experts in varying phases of information, scouted our special need and recommended an informative, informal "Director's Letter" issued at regular intervals. They chose this form because, I suppose, in a sense it is formless, and as such it can wrap itself around the situations as they come. With the aid of my staff, I'll do the best I can to meet the committee's objective. You can help with your comments and suggestions.

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Somehow, each recent Graduate School year has, in turn, appeared to begin more auspiciously. This fall the signs are even stronger than ever. Perhaps it was the initial faculty-committee dinner meeting, planned and conducted so splendidly by Mr. Virgil Couch and his committee. Maybe it is the healthy and unprecedentedly high percentage of faculty and committee members who are enrolled in courses. (You will remember the faculty and committee members pay no tuition--just a \$3 registration fee). About half of the GS administrative staff is back in school, and I find myself enrolled for the third time in the same seminar. (Staff members suggest that I ought soon to be able to pass it). Our strong enrollment--more than we expected and slightly greater than in 1948 is another factor. Finally, the little-big things, like the good will and patience exhibited by the staff and the faculty through the stress of the first weeks of a session, are always fresh and encouraging symbols.

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Speaking of enrollment--it is no longer apt to say that a GS semester begins "with a bang". The use of the patio, better procedures and other neat managerial turns have transformed registration into a

smoothly operating process, particularly when contrasted with some years ago.

Registration this year brought other pleasant surprises. It was good to see continued a number of extremely advanced graduate courses, some of which we have had to cancel previously. The Departmental Committee on Mathematics and Statistics, concerned over a few of its advanced seminars (which with each offering draw more than could be gathered anywhere else in the U.S.) last year developed a multiple-choice system of registration which has proved to be very effective.

One problem, however, inherent in GS nature, remained partially unsolved. The business of finding adequate quarters for some of the very large classes, or the very small ones, is a perennial problem. But through the persistent efforts of Dr. Eisele and Mrs. Burrows the emergency cases have been met.... Along this same vein so many recent requests for information or available luncheon space have come in from committee chairmen and others that our office manager, Mrs. Ruth O. Carroll, has suggested I cite a few likely places. Our own lunch rooms, 6962 and 6970, accommodate 75 and 30. Arrangements can be worked out with the Training Division (Ext 3185), but should be made far in advance. Brookings Institute can handle groups of 10 and 20 when its own needs are light. Miss Barks (MA-8940) takes care of reservations. The YMCA, the Good Earth can also accommodate small or sizeable groups. Some of you may know of other cozy or expansive places which are available.

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During the conference week we visited the USDA Northern Regional Laboratory which, as most of you will recall, helped in the development of penicillin. A most interesting feature of the laboratory is the pilot-plant setup, where in an embryonic form an entire factory can be organized so as to secure pre-operational experience in manufacturing any product. The main resources of the Laboratory are focused on the industrial uses of corn belt agricultural products. Also, in Peoria, we toured the home of the Caterpillar tractor, where a specialized plant "escort" convinced me that it might be well if USDA offered a similar service at its own much-visited installations, such as Beltsville.

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GS, itself, can perhaps do more to advertise its activities, though attendance at the opening of two lecture series attest that we are not playing for our own ears. The impressive array of experts secured by the committees in charge has obviated that. Leading off for the Agricultural Policies and Program series, Dr. Edwin C. Nourse spoke on the "History and Development of Agricultural Policy" to a packed Jefferson auditorium on October 1. Later he led the discussion at the evening seminar sponsored by the committee.

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Broad interests were represented in the group which heard Dr. Herbert Feis, of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University, open the series on "The U.S. and World Affairs." Dr. Feis spoke October 6 on "The Oil of the Middle East: Its Economic and Political Significance." This series is presented by the Division of International Relations, Department of Social Sciences, and is under the direction of Nelson T. Johnson, Secy. General of the Far Eastern Commission and William Van Royen, Professor of Geography at Maryland University. Both are faculty members of the named Division.

These two series and a third, Point 4 and Contemporary National Cultures, chaired by Extension Director M. L. Wilson, make up the public lecture series for this fall. All these are especially significant. They bring to the Department national and international authorities. I hope most of you get to attend some of them and that faculty members, particularly, will call the attention of students to the series. There is no charge. Announcements are posted on bulletin boards at the USDA, and other Departments, or through a card or call to Vera Jensen (Ext. 4419) of our staff, you may be placed on the mailing list to receive announcements of all GS lectures. Keep these dates in mind.

GS service activities were involved this fall as the University of Denver, in cooperation with the Denver Federal Personnel Council inaugurated several courses for Federal employees there. The origin of the cooperation goes back to a 1947 USDA conference in Biloxi, Miss., where Mr. Hilton, Asst. Regional Forster in the Denver region, raised with us the question of possible courses. Subsequently, through Mr. Hilton's efforts, the need was explored by the Federal Council and the Federal Personnel Council. A survey, patterned somewhat after that made here by the GS Beltsville Committee, indicated employee interest in a few courses unique with GS. The U. of Denver, when approached, was cooperative, and asked GS for course outlines and materials. We hope to see more such developments.

The GS Committee on publications held its first fall meeting October 4, with Mr. Peter De Vries of PMA, as the new chairman succeeding Harry Mileham of Extension. Mr. McClarren was reappointed to a new term, and James McCormick, Assistant Director of Information, replaced Dr. Merrill, Director of Publications, who is shortly to retire from USDA. Just off the press is Progress in Antibiotics by George Irving of BAIC and the late H. T. Herrick, formerly of BAIC. Published by the Chemical Publications Company, the book contains presentations by antibiotics experts in a seminar recently offered by GS.

Early last month William G. Finn, Chairman, Department of Public Administration, left USDA to join the Paris office of ECA. Appointed to succeed him as Chairman was Earl W. Loveridge, Assistant Chief, Forest

Service. Patterson French, Assistant to the Director, Bureau of the Budget, succeeded Mr. Loveridge as Vice-Chairman.

Our best wishes go with Bill Finn who rendered yeoman service to the USDA, and to GS during his several-year tenure. The notable change in his department during his chairmanship was its reorganization effective this fall, along the lines recommended by a committee of Government, university and industry representatives. Harlow S. Person presided over this group which has devoted two years' study to the reorganization. Mr. Finn's last public appearance as Chairman, most of you will remember, was at the fine luncheon given by the Department of Public Administration and addressed by Senator Aiken on effective relationships between the legislative and executive branches.

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The USDA World War II Memorial Committee, chaired by Under Secretary Loveland, is planning a living memorial, in the form of a scholarship fund to employees who lost their lives in the conflict. A number of memorial college scholarships, distributed over a period of about 20 years, for eligible sons and daughters of USDA veterans, has been proposed by a sub-committee on eligibility and participation under T. Roy Reid, Director of Personnel. This is just about the finest kind of memorial that could be conceived.

Sincerely,

Lewis H. Robbough

Director

